Contact: Sandy Gutierrez Date: 6-17-10 Release No. 183

News Release SAPD Officer Involved Shooting

A preliminary investigation pertaining to an officer involved shooting reveals the following:

On June 17th, San Antonio Police Officers were working in full uniform as part of the Burglary Vehicle Task Force. In the 4100 block of San Pedro, Officers Leonard Vidal and Kenneth Valdez stopped a vehicle that had a driver, and front and back seat passengers. While conducting the stop, Officer Vidal saw the individual in the back seat acting suspiciously. As Officer Vidal was removing the suspect from the back seat, the suspect began to struggle with the officer. Officer Valdez quickly assisted Officer Vidal in attempting to subdue the suspect. The suspect continued to struggle and pepper spray was used. They were able to handcuff one of the suspect's wrists, before the suspect broke free and fled on foot. Officer Vidal gave chase and the suspect turned and shot at Officer Vidal who, fearing for his life, returned fire. Shortly after, Officer Valdez was in his marked vehicle searching for the suspect when the suspect shot at Officer Valdez, missing him.

The driver also fled on foot and has not been apprehended.

Moments later, the armed suspect fled into a home in the 400 block of Odell. Several children including two adults were able to escape without injuries. The perimeter was secured and Hostage Negotiators were called. Shortly before 4:00 p.m., the suspect gave up peacefully.

33-year-old Officer Vidal, a 10 year veteran, suffered a minor injury to his knee during the struggle.

38-year-old Officer Valdez, a 9 year veteran, received treatment at the scene for pepper spray.

The suspect has not been officially charged or magistrated and his identity has not been released. He faces 2 counts of Attempt to Commit Capital Murder charges.

As of this release, the gun has not been recovered.

The shooting team is currently investigating the incident. Officer Vidal will be placed on administrative leave due to his injury.